

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 161733Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3369

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09445

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A O N E - L I N E O M I T T E D

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: THE LITTLEJOHN SPY AFFAIR

REF: DUBLIN 1062

1. THE LITTLEJOHN AFFAIR SPATTERED ALONG EARLIER THIS WEEK BUT NOW LOOKS LIKE LEAVING THE FRONT PAGES - BARRING SOME SENSATIONAL NEW REVELATION. SOME LABOR PERSONALITIES CONTINUE TO DEMAND AN INQUIRY OR DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT WHEN THE RECESS ENDS IN OCTOBER. LORD WIGG, SECURITY ADVISER TO THE LAST LABOR GOVERNMENT, HAS CALLED FOR LORD CARRINGTON'S RESIGNATION BUT HIS IS A LONE VOICE. IF THE GOVERNMENT ACCEDES TO THE DEMANDS OF

THE LABOR PARTY FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION IT IS LIKELY THAT IT WILL BE HANDLED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND LABOR ON A PRIVY COUNCILLOR BASIS. IT APPEARS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ENDORSED LORD CARRINGTON'S HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR, AND THERE IS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT FEELS EXCESSIVELY DISCOMFITED BY THE CASE IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS. INDEED EDITORIAL OPINION AND
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CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS INDICATE THAT THE

GOVERNMENT HAS THE SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO TAKE TROUBLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

2. THE PRIMARY CONCERN HERE UNDOUBTEDLY REMAINS THE LONGER-RANGE EFFECT THE LITTLEJOHN CASE MAY HAVE ON ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE ATTITUDE OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THERE IS EVIDENT RELIEF HERE THAT LYNCH HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS KEPT INFORMED OF THE BRITISH DEALINGS WITH THE LITTLEJOHNS. AS A SIDELIGHT, THE IRISH MINISTER-COUNSELLOR HERE TOLD US THAT HIS EMBASSY FELT THAT THE LITTLEJOHN AFFAIR HAD HURT ANGLO-IRISH COOPERATION BUT HE DID NOT THINK THE EFFECTS WOULD BE LASTING. HE HOPED, AND FULLY EXPECTED, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD DRAW THE CONSEQUENCES HAVING SIGNED ON UNSAVORY CHARACTERS LIKE THE LITTLEJOHNS FOR INTELLIGENCE WORK.

3. WE THINK IT CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT WHITEHALL WILL BE ASSIDUOUS ABOUT MENDING ITS FENCES WITH DUBLIN IN THE INTERESTS OF ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS GENERALLY AND MOST IMMEDIATELY IN TERMS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM.

SOHM

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